

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/709,889 Confirmation No. 3888
Applicant : Manabu Hashikura, et al.
Filed : June 3, 2004
T.C./A.U. : 2818
Examiner : Dao H. Nguyen
Docket No. : 039.0043
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed on September 24, 2007, Applicant respectfully submits the following reply, constituted by amendments to the claims, and accompanying remarks urging the patentability of the claims. (This reply is being filed on December 26, 2007, the first business day following the Monday, December 24, 2007 date that is three calendar months from the mailing date of the Office action, and is therefore timely filed, (with December 24, in addition to December 25, this year officially being a "Federal holiday within the District of Columbia" as noted by the Office on its website).

AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.